

FOR NEW ARMORY

Subscription List Ready for Presentation.

Objections From Business Men.
Suggests That Boys Have
Vacation.

The following subscription list has been prepared for presentation to the business community, in the hopes that sufficient funds may be raised to start the work.

The National Guard of Hawaii, numbering about 500 men, is the thoroughly equipped and active armed support of the Republic. This body has the distinction of composing the "Minute-men" of the country and the element which would first be called out to lead or repel an attack, to protect the Government and town and to follow the enemy into his mountain fastnesses. The moral effect of the Regiment alone is to maintain peace, its strength and discipline standing as a positive and effective warning to those who would create strife or abet sedition.

A most substantial, important and, in fact, a wholly indispensable factor of the Regiment is the volunteer element. The volunteers are the citizen soldiery of the Republic, the clerks, business and laboring men who drill forty-two nights a year and endure much of the strain of a soldier's life—not for pecuniary reward, for there is nothing in it, but from purely patriotic motives. It is this body upon which the Government would rely, in time of imminent danger, for solid and unwavering support and protection of life and property. In peace, the volunteers are peacemakers; in war, defenders.

The necessity for keeping the strength of the volunteer forces up to the highest limit is ever apparent. With the companies all filled and disciplined, there would be no need for so large a force of paid regulars and the military expenses of the Government could be very materially reduced. It is estimated by some that, with the volunteer ranks as full as they were during the insurrection of January, 1895, the paid militia might be safely reduced to one company of about sixty men. The advantages of such a condition suggest themselves.

How can this result be attained? An explanation of the present demoralized state of the volunteer forces furnishes the answer. The company rosters are lighter today than at any period since the Provisional Government was established in 1893. The men are leaving to join the Sharpshooters Company, the Citizen's Guard or to leave the service entirely. They are discouraged—demoralized.

The trouble can in a large measure be attributed to the lack of armory facilities and accommodations. In no city of the size of Honolulu, particular a capital and with so large a military force as must be maintained here, are the accommodations for the volunteer soldiery so utterly inferior and uninviting. Night after night the men are invited into an old, dirty, greasy tin shed to drill and to hold their meetings. In time of trouble or excitement they accept this condition without a word. But for a permanency something approaching neatness and comfort is required. The effect of such accommodations is that the men tire of the service and no inducement will long hold them together. A commodious armory, one neat and equipped with the usual requirements of the volunteer soldier, is the pressing demand of the moment.

The officers of the National Guard have secured plans for just such a structure as is required, and one that, while being in the line of economy, will be a credit to the Regiment, the Government and the city. The prints call for a building, of brick or stone, two or three stories high to face Hotel street on Miller. In the rear of it will be a hall or shed, about the same length as the old structure now in use. On the first floor of the main building it is proposed to have the private armories or rooms of the six volunteer companies. Even will be furnished and provided with gun-racks and lockers for uniforms, etc. On the second floor it is proposed to have a library and reading room, light games, such as cards, checkers, chess, etc., and reception rooms for the companies. From the company rooms doors will open into the great drill hall. The latter will be large enough to accommodate two or more companies drilling at a time. From the reception rooms, upstairs, doors will open into the gallery over the drill hall. Thus guests of the companies or visitors to the armory may view drills without being in the way or being under the necessity of standing. Below the building will be a basement, extending its entire length and breadth. It will be a range for target shooting, bowling alley, and other appliances and incidental details to be suggested as the project gets farther along. Altogether the armory will combine all required for the comfort and convenience of the men.

The least that can be said of the proposed armory is that it will subserve an excellent purpose, and will be an attractive and valuable public structure. To build and equip it will require a considerable outlay. Of course the Government will assist, but much depends upon and is expected of citizens to carry the project through at an early date. A few large subscriptions would enable the committee to be intrusted with the work to proceed, and in a short time the building would be an assured fact.

When the above was shown to a prominent business man, who has taken part in nearly every scheme gotten up among young men in Honolulu, he expressed himself rather forcibly yesterday against any movement to build the armory.

"I don't want to talk for publication, but I do want to protest against any attempt to build an armory through the much overdone system of 'popular

subscription.' We business men have had that sort of thing thrust at us until our pockets are worn out thrusting in our hands for money. Will you tell me of a single organization started and to be maintained by the young men of Honolulu, requiring financial or moral support that has lasted any time? Take the Fort Street Gym., the Beretania Street Gym., and even the gymnasium at the Y. M. C. A.—none of them had any support after the novelty wore off. Why, the Y. M. C. A. has not had enough members to pay for the apparatus in the building.

"Take as an additional instance the Y. M. C. A. Orchestra. Admittedly a good thing, but it died an untimely death before the members learned to play half a dozen pieces. Then take the Healan Boat Club, an excellent organization at present, but a few years ago it was in its last agonies, and it was only tremendous efforts on the part of a few that the club held together.

If the Government wants to invest in an armory for the militia, that is another matter, but to rely upon the business men for prizes, money contributions and what not is played out. Popular subscription means that a list will start with Hackfeld, at Queen street, and end with Jim Dodd, at Hotel, and we are all expected to contribute. The armory will not bring the men together or make them more proficient at drill. That's just where the rub is. They are getting tired of going to drill every week; the novelty has worn off, and now they want a rest. My suggestion is that the companies be given a six-months' vacation. By the time that has expired, they will be ready to go to work."

It was found, on inquiry, that the sentiments expressed by this gentleman are practically the same as are held by many others on the street.

JONAH AND WHALE

Philadelphia Preacher Offers a Theory.

The Whale May Have Been a
Shark—Some Historic Sharks
Were Large.

Rev. Thomas A. Hoyt, of the Chalmers Presbyterian Church, Philadelphia, offered an explanation of the "great fish" story to his congregation a few Sundays since, which was incidental to the discussion now in progress among theologians in the United States.

Rev. Mr. Hoyt held that the story was worthy the fullest credence as a physical possibility, even if there were no belief in miracles. His text was from the seventeenth verse of the Book of Jonah, "The Lord had prepared a great fish to swallow up Jonah, and Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights," Dr. Hoyt said:

"This is the point of infidel attack. The story is declared to be improbable, impossible, absurd. For one thing, it is alleged that a whale's throat is too narrow to swallow a man. We might rest in the truth that nothing is impossible with God; that he could create a whale big enough for his purpose, or enlarge its throat. But the fish is not called a 'whale,' except in our version of the words of Christ. In the text it is called 'a great fish,' and in Matthew xii, 40, the word 'cetos' is used, which in the margin of the revised version is translated 'sea monster' and which refers to the genus and not to the species of certain large fish found in the Mediterranean Sea. It includes a species of white shark, which is capable of swallowing not merely a man, but even a horse.

SOME HISTORIC SHARKS.

"A natural historian of repute relates that in 1758 in stormy weather a sail or fell overboard from a frigate in the Mediterranean. A shark was close by, which, as he was swimming and crying for help, took him in its wide throat, so that he forthwith disappeared. The captain had a gun which stood on the deck, discharged it at the fish, which struck it so that it cast out the sailor from its mouth, who was taken up alive. The fish was harpooned, taken upon the frigate and dried. It was 20 feet long, nine feet across the fins, and weighed 4,000 pounds. This is not the only account of the size of this fish. Another distinguished naturalist states that the white shark is found of the size of 10,000 pounds, and horses have been found whole in its stomach. A writer of the sixteenth century on the fish of Marseilles says: 'They of Nice attested to me that they had taken a fish of this sort approaching to 4,000 pounds weight. In whose body they had found a man whole.'

"Such facts and many others which might be adduced ought to shame those who speak of the miracle of Jonah's preservation through the fish as a thing less credible than any other of God's miraculous doings. There is no greater or less to Omnipotence. The creation of the universe the whole stellar system, or a fly, are alike in His simple acts of His divine will. What to men seem the greatest miracles, or the least, are alike to Him; the mere 'let it be' of His all-holy will acting in a different way for one and the same end; the instruction of the intelligent creatures which He has made."

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